

AUGUST TIP SAVINGS: \$100-\$300/YR

Avoided Emissions of CO₂: Up to 500 lbs./YR



\$USTAINABILITY \$AVINGS TIP

MONEY DOES GROW ON TREES

Reduce your summer electric bill with landscape shading.

It's August, and it's hot! This time of year, we seek out the shade of trees when we are walking on the sidewalk or looking for a parking space. It just makes sense that our homes can benefit and stay cooler by being in the shade of trees, too.

Thoughtful plant placement when landscaping can not only save you energy inside your home, but can also be water efficient by utilizing the concepts of Xeriscape. This creative approach to landscaping promotes the use of well-adapted plants, efficient irrigation, and careful design. When designing or renovating your landscape, you should consider creating summer shade around your home with trees, shrubs, or vines. While grass will reduce your home's summer cooling requirements a marginal amount, up to 4%, adding shrubs increases efficiency up to 24%, and well-placed mature trees can cut energy costs up to 42%.

Trees also provide wildlife habitat and improve air quality by turning greenhouse gasses such as CO₂ into oxygen.

The Environmental and Sustainability division offers free copies of desert gardening guides:

- ***Xeriscape: Landscaping with Style in the Arizona Desert*** will take you step-by-step in the creation, installation, and maintenance of a beautiful, healthy, water and energy efficient garden in the desert.
- ***Landscape Plants for the Arizona Desert*** lists over 200 well-adapted plants, featuring photos and specific plant details.
- ***Landscape Watering by the Numbers*** will keep you on track with proper watering and efficiency.

CHECKLIST FOR SAVINGS

- ☐ Call (480) 644-3306 to request your free booklets or request them online at: www.mesaaz.gov/conservation/publications_main.aspx.
- ☐ Attend one of the monthly *Living Green* Workshop Series programs to learn more about landscaping and energy conservation. For a list of programs visit www.mesaaz.gov/sustainability.
- ☐ Visit the City of Mesa library for more books on desert gardening, landscaping and energy efficiency. See our recommended list of books at www.mesalibrary.org/research/links/living-green.aspx.

DESIGN TIPS

- Do a site analysis to determine sun exposures and best areas to create shade.
- Select trees to shade east- and west-facing exposures. Select deciduous trees on south-facing exposures, allowing sunlight into the home during the winter when branches are bare of leaves.
- Shade your air conditioner condenser to reduce air temperatures around the unit.
- Limit turf grass areas to save substantial amounts of water and to improve energy saving potential.

\$START SAVING

Start saving on energy costs, while doing your part for *building a sustainable community*.

Learn to live Green